

**Minutes of the Energy Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 26 October 2016, at 10:30 AM at the Lanesborough Town Hall Community Room.**

Attendees: Robert Ericson, Gordon Zaks, Dave Vogel, Kevin Towle, Larry Spatz

The Agenda and discussion:

**1. Solar Project Planning: Report of Conversation with Beth Greenblatt, and status of parcel under RFP:** The RFP has hit a snag with the proposed new replacement SREC program under development by DOER. The new SREC program will not allow SREC incentives to be paid to solar projects built on prime farmland. The SRECs are an important part of making these long term solar projects financially feasible, and without their contribution, many projects will not be built.

The Town land that that our project would use, off Prospect Street and North Main Street, is zoned Residential/Limited Business for about 200 feet east from North Main, and Agricultural for the rest of the property according to our town zoning. This would place most of the solar project on land that the state would deem "prime farmland", thus excluding the project from SREC participation under the proposed new rules, and effectively killing the project. The new rules will take effect in the new year (2017).

Paul Sieloff and the Energy Committee chair have spoken to Beth Greenblatt, the consultant that the town hired at the behest of the Energy Committee to get this project moving; and she has recommended a three month stay (delay) for the acceptance of proposals due to the potential for new and changed program parameters that will affect the financial aspects of every proposal. Paul and I have reluctantly agreed to the delay, seeing no alternative, at this time.

Energy Committee member Kevin Towle will be taking this issue back to the Massachusetts House for discussion with DOER.

**2. Status of energy projects drawings, and conversations with Jim Barry regarding same:** Jim has provided some names in other towns to contact in order to find an engineering/architectural firm willing to do our town buildings energy conservation drawings. During inquiries, and much disinterest, we may have found a local firm willing to undertake these projects as noted below.

**2a. Engineering proposal from HCS Civil & Environmental Engineering for Police Station drawings via email:** They will establish a CAD base map showing the proposed energy modifications and revised interior layout for an estimated fee of \$850. They will provide us with paper copies of the cad drawings so you can add and/or change as you need. They will also assist us with interpretation of building codes associated with the proposed modifications. They will invoice engineering time on an hourly basis (\$115 / hour) plus expenses, per my phone call to HCS.

Motion 2a.: After much discussion by the committee, Dave Vogel made a motion to accept the proposal from HCS Civil & Environmental Engineering for CAD base, seconded by Gordon Zaks. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion 2b.: Dave Vogel made a 2nd motion to accept the proposal from HCS Civil & Environmental Engineering for initial engineering effort, not to exceed 10 hours, seconded by Gordon Zaks. All in favor, motion passes.

Total value approved: \$850 (CAD data base) plus \$1150 (engineering) plus expenses (undefined).

**Note to ALL: Based on the formal proposal received today, Monday 31 October 2016: The amount for HCS Engineering should have been \$150. per hour, rather than the \$115 per hour that I thought I heard on the phone (my apologies to the committee, but they sound so similar, and I of course was thinking small). Unfortunately, the dollar amount difference invalidates the Motion 2b. vote, so we will need another meeting to correct the mistake.**

**3. Status of Town Hall:** No substantial change, Bob Ericson is still plugging away at the barrier attic insulation.

**4. Status of Fire Department energy audit by AEG:** AEG was invited to provide a proposal for the replacement of fluorescent fixtures with LEDs a month ago. Their analysis and proposal is hung up at Eversource Energy (was WMECO), who makes the determination for energy saving incentive funding for the project.

**5. Status of Police Station:** The chair has completed an initial survey of all the electrical devices in the station as the first step of a load analysis of the total station power requirements. The results are not good: we knew from earlier study that the wiring is in bad (substandard) shape, now it can be said that the building 100 amp panel is truly overloaded and needs to be replaced with a larger panel, and substantial rewiring.

**6. Status of DPW Garage energy improvements:** We are putting together a proposal to replace the current garage door hardware, door seals, and install automatic remote door openers to save energy by reducing the time that the doors are open.

Dave Vogel and Gordon Zaks are still working to get a proposal for overhead infrared gas-fired heating elements to reduce the energy required by the building with the traditional large area forced hot air heaters. Another location where they have this system, and the public is allowed to visit is at the **Restore** recycle store on Hubbard Avenue in Pittsfield (Thursdays and Fridays).

**7. Status of Elementary School Energy Program:** We will ask the Green Energy Program for permission to use their funding to replace the 15 failed glass thermo panes around the school. The maintenance manager will use the material and perform the labor during the summer.

**8. Status of Energy Use Spreadsheet:** Not discussed due to limited time, and people departing.

**9. Minutes (none)**

**10. Any business that could not have been foreseen in the last 48 hours prior to the meeting:** (None)

Robert Ericson, Chair